History

The History Department offers a wide range of courses that span from the pre-modern past to the contemporary era and geographically circle the globe. Courses build on a number of disciplinary vantage points and explore various themes, including cultural, economic, environmental, gender, global and transnational, Indigenous, intellectual, labour, legal, political, and religious history. In addition, students have the opportunity to undertake a variety of independent research, community projects, experiential learning, and internship opportunities. The emphasis on analysis, critical thinking, research, communication, and writing skills prepare history students for careers in law, education, public policy, business, museum and archives, publishing, research, and media.

TOP 5 Reasons to study History

1. A History degree provides essential skills for a variety of career options, including education, law, policy, public service, media, and business.

2. History offers a range of small-sized seminars, which allow students to interact with professors individually and provides an enriching learning experience.

3. The range of courses spans the globe. History lecture and seminar courses cover every continent, and many courses examine the interconnected nature of human experience.

4. History helps us to critically examine how the world we inhabit came to be.

5. A history degree offers opportunities for innovative independent research projects and a number of real-world experiential learning and public history internships.

Alumni Story

“Studying in the Queen’s History department taught me a number of great things, including that I know a small fraction of what there is to know, but that I have the capacity to learn a lot through discussion, analysis, and hard work.”

- Christine Platt, BAH ’07

TOP ALUMNI JOBS

32% of alumni work in EDUCATION
15% of alumni work in GOVERNMENT & NON-PROFIT
9% of alumni work in LAW
7% of alumni work in BANKING, INVESTMENT & INSURANCE

Our alumni also work in fields such as media, libraries and archives, management, museums, and as researchers and consultants for industry.

Listen to our Alumni Archives Podcast to learn more.

Add a Certificate
Data Analytics
Disability and Physical Activity
Employment Relations
Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Creativity
French for Professionals
Geographic Information Science
Global Action and Engagement
Indigenous Languages and Cultures
International Studies
Media Studies
Sexual and Gender Diversity
Urban Planning Studies

Plan Thresholds

Thresholds are made on a competitive basis and are updated annually. To see the thresholds for all programs as well as the latest information, please visit quartsci.com/planselection

Interested in finding out how to augment your degree with Experiential Learning? Learn what opportunities and resources are available for you on the Experiential Learning website. You can also reach out to the team directly at asc.el@queensu.ca.


That is a degree from Queen’s.
How to use this map

Use the 5 rows of the map to explore possibilities and plan for success in the five overlapping areas of career and academics. The map just offers suggestions – you don’t have to do it all! To make your own custom map, use the My Major Map tool.
In fourth year you will have the chance to participate in research-based courses that can lead to Graduate School or to your future career path. Make sure to finish up all your courses for your major and your optional minor and/or certificate(s).

Interested in working on a real-world problem with an actual client? Take ASCX 400 and develop your consulting and project-management skills.

Consider applying for an Undergraduate Student Summer Research Fellowship (SSRF). Consider applying to do a 12-16 month QUIP internship between your third and fourth year. Consider applying for IT 517: Independent Study Project and submit your work at the Inquiry @ Queen’s Undergraduate Conference.

More experiential learning opportunities and apply to the Department of History’s internships program.

International students interested in staying in Canada can speak with an International Student Advisor. Consider applying for an M.A. in History to specialize in fields such as Global History, Postcolonial and Decolonial Thought, and Environmental History.

Get involved with the Global History Initiative.

Apply to jobs or future education, or make plans for other adventures. Get help from Career Services with job searching, resumes, interviews, Grad School applications, or other decisions.

Apply in the fall for SSHRC and OGS scholarships if applying to grad school in Ontario.

Apply for the Queen’s Career Apprenticeship: Kingston (QCA:K).

What will I learn?
A degree in History can equip you with:

- Knowledge of a broad spectrum of historical events and trends
- Understanding of how historians study the past
- Knowledge of how political, social, economic, and cultural change occurs
- Understanding of the relationship between history and current events
- Oral and written communication to communicate ideas through writing and present research to a group
- Analytical skills to make judgments based on available historical evidence
- Research skills to synthesize large amounts of material and identify relevant information
- Attention to detail to analyze texts and historical arguments
- Problem solving to develop systematic procedures for investigating a problem
- Resource and time management

Where can I go?
A degree in History can take your career in many directions. Many students choose to continue their academic inquiry with a Master’s. Our students are equipped with a strong foundation for careers in:

- Anthropology
- Archival science
- Genealogical research
- Intelligence analysis
- Library science
- Museum curator
- Policy analyst
- Public administration
- Technical writing

Taking time to explore career options, build experience, and network can help you have a smooth transition to the world of work after graduation.
Get started thinking about the future now – where do you want to go after your degree? Having tentative goals (like careers or grad school) while working through your degree can help with short-term decisions about courses and experiences, but also help you keep motivated for success.

Get the help you need

Queen’s provides you with a broad range of support services from your first point of contact with the university through to graduation. At Queen’s, you are never alone. We have many offices dedicated to helping you learn, think and do.

Ranging from help with academics and careers, to physical, emotional, or spiritual resources – our welcoming living and learning environment offers the programs and services you need to be successful, both academically and personally. Queen’s wants you to succeed! Check out the Student Affairs website for available resources.

Why study in Kingston?

For 175 years, our community has been more than a collection of bright minds – Queen’s has attracted students with an ambitious spirit. Queen’s has the highest retention rates, the highest graduation rates, and one of the highest employment rates among recent graduates. We are a research intensive university focused on the undergraduate experience. The BBC has identified Kingston as one of the GREATEST UNIVERSITY TOWNS in the world – and it is often awarded the safest city in Canada. It is a university city at the core; just a quick drive to Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa and even New York. A university with more clubs per capita than any other university in Canada, and a city with more restaurants per capita than any other city in North America – you will have the experience of a lifetime at Queen’s – and graduate with a degree that is globally recognized among the best.